



FLWEMS Paramedics Adult Protocol for the Management of:  
**DIABETIC EMERGENCIES**

**Indications**

To outline the paramedic care and management of the patient with signs and symptoms of ketoacidosis/hypoglycemia.

**KNOWN HYPERGLYCEMIA**

**Procedure**

1. Secure an airway as outlined in FLWEMS Paramedics Adult Protocol for the Management of Airway & Ventilation and administer supplemental **Oxygen** as needed.
2. Initiate IV of **0.9% NaCL** and infuse as necessary to maintain normal blood pressure. Obtain blood sample with IV start and perform glucose test.
3. Prepare Glucometer and blood specimen for field-testing.
4. Perform field glucose test.
5. If initial field glucose test results are greater than 300 mg/dL, repeat the test one time prior to administering an IV fluid bolus for hyperglycemia.
6. If the second glucose test is consistent with the first test, then consider IV fluid bolus of 1 liter of **0.9% NaCL**. Contact medical control prior administering more than 1L of **0.9% NaCL**.
7. If the second glucose test is not consistent with the first test, contact Medical Control for further guidance.
8. In any case if field glucose test results are greater than 300 mg/dL, draw blood to be analyzed by pathology.
9. Monitor cardiac rhythm and treat dysrhythmias as per specific protocol.
10. Transport to appropriate Emergency Department.
11. Contact medical control for further orders as needed.

**KNOWN HYPOGLYCEMIA**

**Procedure**

1. Secure an airway as outlined in FLWEMS Paramedics Adult Protocol for the Management of Airway & Ventilation and administer supplemental **Oxygen** as needed.
2. Initiate IV of **0.9% NaCL** and infuse as necessary to maintain normovolemia. Obtain blood sample with IV start and perform glucose test.
3. Prepare Glucometer and blood specimen for field-testing.
4. Perform field glucose test.
5. If initial field glucose test results are less than 50 mg/dL, repeat the test one time prior to administering **50% Dextrose** for hypoglycemia.
6. If the second glucose test is consistent with the first test and patient shows signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia, then treat IAW with the following guidelines:
  - a. Administer **50% Dextrose** 25cc slow IVP for adult patients.

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- b. If unable to establish IV access, contact medical control and consider **Glucagon** 0.5 to 1.0mg IM.
- c. Consider **Narcan** 2 mg slow IVP.
- d. Consider **Thiamine** 100 mg IVP.

**NOTE:** Administer **Thiamine** prior to **50% Dextrose** if ETOH involvement is suspected.

- 7. If the second glucose test is not consistent with the first test, contact Medical Control for further guidance.
- 8. In any case if field glucose test results are less than 50mg/dL, draw blood to be analyzed by pathology.
- 9. Monitor cardiac rhythm and treat dysrhythmias as per specific protocol.
- 10. Monitor patient for improvement.
- 11. If no improvement in patient level of consciousness may repeat **50% Dextrose** × 1.
- 12. Transport to appropriate Emergency Department.
- 13. Contact Medical Control for further orders as needed.

**General Guidelines**

- 1. Repeat field glucose testing procedures within 5 minutes after each administration of **50% Dextrose** and/or **Glucagon**.
- 2. Document all results according on the *"Paramedic Patient Care Report Form"*.
- 3. "Download" Glucometer patient information and test results into the patient's electronic patient record (*CHCS/CHCS-2*) after each ambulance call/EMS patient contact.
- 4. Monitor patient for multi-system complications/illnesses and treat IAW the appropriate protocol.
- 5. Contact medical control for further orders as needed.

**CAIRA/Chemical Surety Considerations**

None

**Triage Considerations**

Refer to S.T.A.R.T. Triage Protocol

**END OF SOP – NOTHING FOLLOWS**